

HAYNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Jennie D. Hayner Library

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HAYNER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT-ALTON



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history for those who
come after us that
they may be
inspired.

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NOT FOR CIRCULATION

Hayner Memorial Library

A RECOGNITION
JOHN E. HAYNER

Annals and Incidents of Library
Work

By
Jennie D. Hayner Library
Alton, Ill.

1909
Melling & Gaskins Ptg. Co., Alton, Ill.

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Librarian

Miss FLORENCE DOLBEE

ASSISTANTS—Misses Harriet C. Dolbee, Viola J. Erbeck,
Isabel E. Norton.

*Deceased

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HAYNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

Alton's most notable public building is the Hayner Memorial Library. The main building was erected in 1891 by the late Jno. E. Hayner, and the annex in 1906 by his grandson, John A. Haskell, the total cost of the building as it now stands being \$33,000. It is located on the corner of State and Fourth Streets. The main building has a frontage of 40 feet on State Street, with a depth of 75 feet on Fourth. The dimensions of the annex are 50x25 feet, making the depth of the whole building on Fourth street 100 feet. The material is brick with basement of Alton limestone, and trimmings of Alton and Bedford stone over windows and entrances. The style of architecture is known as "Old English," an order attractive to the eye and giving an impression of solidity and strength. The architect of the main building was Theodore Link, of St. Louis, and of the annex U. S. Nixon, of Alton. The main entrance on State street is through an artistic vestibule, guarded by iron gateways, and floored with tile. Double doors open from the vestibule into an ante-room, thence into the main hall, with librarian's room on the right. This main hall with its lofty, vaulted ceiling of open timber work, its high windows, and polished floor, is a remarkably imposing apartment, and impresses every visitor with its beauty and completeness. It opens by doorway into second floor of the annex. The wood work is oak and yellow pine, natural finish, the effect of which is very ornamental. The main portion of the books most in demand are displayed in this room in hand-some cases standing at right angles to and on either side of the windows. The room is lighted from two opposite sides and the effect could not be better. The evening lighting, by electricity, is brilliant and the lamps well arranged to light up the cases. In the center of the room are long tables on which the periodical literature is displayed in cloth bindings.

The librarian's room, opening into the hall, is a beautiful, home-like apartment, which visitors all admire.

Beneath the main floor is another spacious hall, of same dimensions as the one above, with independent entrance on Fourth street, where are stored on shelving government works and reports, and volumes of like character, which are in demand mainly for reference. In this room were formerly given the noted "library suppers"—famous in our social annals. Adjoining this is the furnace room, though the building is now warmed by radiators with city heat.

The annex is a splendid addition, corresponding in style of architecture with the main building. The entrance to first floor is by a handsome vestibule, opening from Fourth street. The interior throughout is likewise finished in oak and yellow pine, and the rooms on main floor have open-timbered ceilings, of same style as the main building. These are known as the reference and stack rooms. The first is provided with shelving, desks and tables. The stack room is fitted with cases in which the books are systematically arranged. These rooms are each twenty-four feet square and are well lighted and conveniently arranged.

On the ground floor is the children's room, measuring 24x48 feet. This has, likewise, a polished, hardwood floor. It is equipped with shelving for juvenile books, and has solid circular tables about the pillars, surrounded by low chairs for the children. This department is a beautiful addition to the attractions of the library, and was designed and fitted up specially to meet the wants of childhood. It is the most delightful resort for children in the city and is crowded three afternoons in the week with happy boys and girls engaged in selecting their favorite books, or in reading in groups about the low tables. Every Saturday afternoon the children are entertained with select readings by the librarians, whose aim is to instruct as well as to entertain their young charges. A more





beautiful philanthropy than is here exemplified could not well be imagined. We must expect much in the future of the rising generation which enjoys such exceptional advantages. During the past year, of the 40,107 books issued by the library 11,608 were to juveniles, which indicates how well these opportunities are appreciated.

The furniture of the whole building is elegant and costly. Everything is solid and substantial. The walls are adorned with valuable paintings, portraits and engravings, giving an effect of grace and beauty to all the surroundings. The very atmosphere of the library is elevating and inspiring. The building is modern throughout, with every appointment of metropolitan utility and convenience. It is the home of culture and refinement, and free to all who care to avail themselves of its advantages.

The library itself is a remarkably complete and valuable selection of the choicest literature in the language, numbering at last report 10,638 volumes, to which large additions have lately been made, including the extensive medical libraries of Dr. W. A. Haskell and Dr. R. Gibson, something over 800 and 400 volumes, respectively, which have been generously donated by these gentlemen.

The library is classified according to the Dewey Decimal System, and is divided into twelve divisions, viz.: General Works, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, Philology, Natural Science, Useful Arts, Literature, History, and Fiction by call numbers, Reference and Medical libraries.

Each book has its proper place and the arrangement is so perfect that the librarians can instantly place their hands on any book called for. It is seen from the above classification how broad a field the library offers for investigation, instruction and entertainment. The reference room is peculiarly valuable for all research work. It is equipped with dictionaries, encyclopædias, atlases, charts, maps, and a com-

plete index to periodical literature, with full sets of bound volumes of the standard magazines of the country. The medical libraries will find place in this room as soon as catalogued. Dr. Haskell supplemented his donation with a liberal endowment fund, the interest of which is to be devoted to the purchase of new medical works yearly, thus keeping it ever abreast of the times. This medical library includes many rare and costly volumes accumulated during his professional career. The donor provided that the selection of new books should be such as were recommended by a standing committee of the Alton Medical Society; the use of this professional library to be confined to physicians, practitioners and medical students. The medical society has amended its constitution in such a manner as to provide for utilizing this invaluable bequest of Dr. Haskell's in the interests of the profession he so highly honored.

THE PERMANENT ENDOWMENT.

From this description of the library building and the library itself, it will be seen how important and valuable an institution it has become, how complete, extended and desirable is its whole equipment. But the donors have not only furnished this perfectly-appointed institution for the benefit of our citizens, but have provided for its perpetuation by ample endowments. The resources of the library include:

John E. Hayner, Main Building.....	\$20,000
John A. Haskell, Annex Building.....	13,000
John E. Hayner, endowment (in life).....	15,000
Mrs. Mary Caroline Hayner, endowment.....	10,000
Mrs. W. A. Haskell, endowment.....	10,000
John A. Haskell, endowment.....	10,000
Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Haskell, Juvenile endowment.....	500
Dr. W. A. Haskell, Medical endowment.....	2,500
Total of Hayner-Haskell permanent endowments including buildings.....	\$81,000

MAIN HALL, LOOKING EAST.





MAIN HALL, LOOKING EAST.

They have likewise contributed, through a series of years, several thousand more to improvements, repairs and furnishings.

OTHER RESOURCES.

These include endowments raised by contributions of directors and citizens, \$5,000. To which are to be added generous donations by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Eliot Smith of \$500 annually, and incidental receipts of the library from fines, forfeitures and dues from members outside of city.

It is thus apparent that with a permanent, perfectly equipped building, with interest from permanent endowments and other resources, the society is provided with a liberal income for both present and future needs sufficient to meet all expenses and to furnish funds for continuous additions to the shelves of new publications as they are issued, thus providing our citizens with not only the best literature of past ages, but enabling them to keep abreast of the world's work and progress. And all this without tax or expense to the public. Surely this is a noble and splendid philanthropy, broad in its scope, pure in its motive and uplifting in all its tendencies. It affords help in the present and hope for the future. All that is asked by the donors in return is that the people will avail themselves of the advantages offered by this library and give to the world, in return, the benefit of a cultured and elevated manhood and womanhood, and that inestimable blessing to the community implied in the term, "good citizenship."



JOHN E. HAYNER.

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN E. HAYNER,

DONOR OF THE JENNIE D. HAYNER
LIBRARY BUILDING.
1827-1903

JOHN E. HAYNER, the donor of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Building, erected as a tribute to the memory of his wife and bearing her name, was born March 29, 1827, in Charlestown, N. Y., and died at Alton, Ill., March 19, 1903. When he was six years of age his parents removed to Yates, in the same State, where he spent his childhood on a farm, receiving the usual education afforded by the country schools. When eighteen years of age he entered a dry goods store, where he remained as clerk for three years, and then, seeking for wider opportunities, turned his face westward, arriving in Alton in December, 1848. His first employment was that of clerk in the P. B. Whipple store. Subsequently he engaged in the hardware business with the late Arba Nelson, under the firm name of Nelson & Hayner. Later he operated a saw mill and box factory; became a bank director, a member of the firm of J. E. Hayner & Co., Western representatives of the Walter A. Wood Self-Binder Co., and was connected with various other firms and enterprises in Alton, Chicago and elsewhere, but was best known to the people as President of the Alton Savings Bank and Vice-President of the Alton National Bank.

Mr. Hayner was thrice married. His first wife was Miss Laura Scott, of Craftsbury, Vt., the mother of his only child, Mrs. W. A. Haskell. The second was Miss Jennie

Drury, of Highgate, Vt. His last marriage was with Miss Mary Caroline Keith, of Sheldon, Vt., who survives him. Mrs. H. A. Fletcher, of Alton, his sister, is the last surviving member of his father's family. He likewise left a grandson, Mr. John A. Haskell.

In the death of Mr. Hayner, not only did the family, relatives and friends sustain a crushing bereavement, but the city of Alton lost its best friend and greatest benefactor. Coming here in early manhood, depending entirely on his own resources, without friends or influence he rose step by step by force of perseverance, integrity and inherent ability until he became a power in the commercial world, and a financier whose talents were recognized and honored not only in the marts of St. Louis and Chicago, but throughout the West, and even in the leading Eastern cities. His career was remarkable, not only in the brilliant success he attained, but in the fact that it was won not by speculation, but by rare business foresight and acumen, the ability to forecast the value of projected enterprises. He never failed in any of his business ventures, for the sufficient reason that, guided by integrity of purpose, he never engaged in any project that was not honorable and for which there was not a legitimate demand. His business career was a series of unbroken successes, because his judgment was unerring, his energy unfailing and his will indomitable. But above all towered one supreme attribute, and that was character—the vital force that underlies all worthy accomplishment that commands honor and affection, that is the basis of all enduring greatness, that lives and reigns when the earthly tabernacle is dissolved. This friend and brother, for he was that to all his townsmen, “sleeps the sleep that knows no waking,” unresponsive to the tears of affection or the world's acclaim, but his character lives immortal and indestructible, never more alive than to-day. Death can rob the world of the earthly tenement in which the great of all

ages acted their part, but its power stops there. It cannot rob us of the characters they built up. And this is true success, to create a character which shall be as immortal as the spirit itself. Many men have lived, won riches and power, have died and been buried, and that ended the chapter. Their success has been “as sounding brass or tinkling cymbal,” and when the noise and the tumult ceased there was nothing left. They had failed to build up the one controlling element that would have lived when they had passed away. But our friend was not in this category. He achieved great things in the world, but these alone are transitory and evanescent, his real success consisted in creating this vivifying essence we call character, that is satisfying and lasting. Men trusted him, believed in him, honored him. As an employe, in his early manhood, he was trustworthy and capable; as a merchant his name was a synonym for integrity; as a manufacturer he held the confidence of the public; as a banker and financier men relied upon his judgment—and he never fell short of the reliance placed upon him. “It is necessary that a man be true—not that he live.” But there were many sides to this sterling character of his. One of his most beautiful traits was his interest in and sympathy for young men. Doubtless the memory of his own early struggles was ever present with him. Many now prominent men could be named who owe their station in life to the kindly advice, the helping hand and the material aid of John E. Hayner. Doubtless one inspiring cause of his generous benefactions to the library cause was this sympathy with the welfare of young people. His own success, instead of inspiring pride and arrogance, developed in him the desire to help others along the same road to high achievement, and he did this throughout his life. Quietly, unostentatiously, but continuously—none knew of it but the recipients, and many there are who can testify that they owe all they are to his counsel, his aid and

the inspiration he gave them to right living. His material charity was abounding and perennial. He sought out and relieved the poor and needy. He comforted the sorrowing. His benevolence was unfailing. No good cause ever appealed to him and found him unresponsive. The churches had in him a liberal and appreciative supporter. He did not wait solicitation but volunteered his aid wherever he saw need thereof. Ministers of the gospel found in him a generous, sympathetic friend, who appreciated the work to which their lives were dedicated. His personality was engaging. He had a pleasant smile and a genial greeting for all he met. Rich and poor received from him the same unfailing courtesy. He was always and everywhere the polished, unassuming gentleman.

As a citizen he was ever on the side of justice and humanity. He loved the old Bluff City and was interested in every project for its advancement. His many great enterprises did much for its upbuilding and the maintenance of its financial prosperity. He had been a friend and helper of the public library from early manhood. Even amid the later cares and exactions of his busy career he was interested in this means of advancing culture among the people. It came about normally, then, that when the time came that he could look back upon a life of satisfying achievement the desire should come to him to share his prosperity with others; and in no way could this be better done than by providing for the literary advancement of his own and future generations. That the impulse should come to him, also, to dedicate the accomplished work to the memory of the companion who have been one with him in devotion to the same ideal, was an equally natural evolution. In order that this desire to bring the people in contact with the teachings of the best writers of all ages might be realized, he built and presented to the Association, for use of the citizens of Alton, the splendid Hayner Memorial Library which is one of the ornaments of



Mrs. JENNIE D. HAYNER.

the city. To perpetuate its work, he so generously endowed it that it will be for all time a center of educational progress and culture, absolutely free of expense to the public. His heirs in fulfillment of his known wishes have added most liberally to the further development of the institution more than doubling its capacity and endowment.

Mr. Hayner was himself a constant reader of the best literature and his attainments were broadened by extended travels in this and foreign lands. He was thoroughly posted on political and economic topics, and while pronounced in his own views he was tolerant of others. During the war for the Union he was most liberal in his contributions in aid of the soldiers in the field and the sick and wounded in hospitals. He was the friend of every man who wore the blue. He was an ardent anti-slavery man and was interested for many years in the project of building a monument in memory of Elijah P. Lovejoy, and those who were connected with him in forwarding that undertaking can testify that his generous aid at its inception and the impulse he gave the Association were the mainsprings which eventuated in the beautiful and stately memorial to the first anti-slavery martyr which now adorns the city cemetery. And within its shadow he lies at rest.

These few and inadequate reminiscences of the life he lived among us, of his notable achievements, of his philanthropic spirit, of the numberless acts of kindness and of love which crowned his days, are the chaplets his friends would lay upon his tomb. Unlike the roses and the lilies, the laurel and the willow, they will not fade and die, but live on and on, renewing their fragrance with every returning spring, blooming ever anew in the garden of our memories.

In this tribute the writer has spoken merely of the life of Mr. Hayner in its relation to the public, and it is, perhaps, not mete to pass the portals of his domestic life, but it was in

the home that his noble and inspiring traits showed their fullest fruition. His family had ever the first place in his thought and affection, and the home-life is the inspiration of all high endeavor. The public life radiates therefrom, and is simply its reflection and wider expression. When the word went forth that this noble spirit had passed away, the full sympathy of all hearts went out to the widow, bereft in the home he made beautiful for his loved ones, and to the absent daughter and her husband, in a far-off isle, to whom the tidings of a great sorrow were borne over the moaning sea.

There is an old Persian admonition that has drifted down the ages. It reads :

“On parent knee, a helpless, new-born child,
Weeping thou sat'st while all around thee smiled ;
So live that, sinking on thy last long sleep,
Thou then mayst smile while all around thee weep.”

This is what our friend could do and this is why we mourn his loss and are desolate.

Fifty-Six Years of Service



IN RECORDING the annals of a public institution that has served well the purpose of its organization, it is always of interest to revert to the initiatory steps towards its foundation. The "beginning of things," as the term is used, has attached to it an interest of its own, something that no later success or expansion can obliterate. We honor the originators of successful and beneficent enterprises much as we honor the Pilgrim Fathers, or the pioneers of the border ; much as we honor John Harvard or Elihu Yale, even when the commonwealths or the institutions they founded have expanded far beyond their brightest dreams of future greatness. For this reason we look through the mists of over half a century to the organization of our most helpful and popular institution now known as the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association. Originally it was the Alton Library Association, then the Alton Public Library Society, and later Alton Public Library Association. The inception or origin of the association dates back to 1852. It unfortunately happens that the records of the first fourteen years of the institution are missing, but from 1866, at which time the institution was reorganized, the records are complete. To supply the missing links, the writer has spent much time in examining the old files of local newspapers, and has found sufficient data to give a connected sketch of the first seven years of its history, but for the next seven, which include the Civil War period, no files were available, and the material at hand is only sufficient to establish the fact that the organization was maintained continuously, but, like many other local enterprises, suffered from the general absorption of the public in the great conflict which over-shadowed every other concern.

To revert to the "beginning of things:" On the 10th of December, 1852, the following card appeared in the *Alton Daily Morning Courier*:

CITIZENS, ATTENTION!

"The citizens of Alton, who are in favor of establishing a circulating library and reading room, are requested to meet at the Common Council room, tomorrow (Saturday) evening next, 11th inst., for the purpose of adopting measures to accomplish that object."

No signatures were attached to the notice, but it is safe to assume that certain citizens, whose names appear later as officers of the association, were the authors of the call.

The *Courier* of the following day contained a strong editorial article cordially endorsing the above call, setting forth the advantages and benefits of such an institution, and urging citizens to give the enterprise a generous support. The meeting was held as called, and the following is the record of the first meeting which appeared in the *Courier* of the 13th:

PUBLIC MEETING!

"At a meeting of the citizens of Alton, called at the Council room, Dec. 11th, for the purpose of organizing a reading room and library, on motion Dr. P. W. Randle was called to the chair and Wm. H. Turner appointed secretary. The chairman having stated the object of the meeting, addresses were made by Messrs. Sawyer, Woods, McMasters, Miller and Souther. On motion of Dr. Johnson it was

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws to be presented for action at a subsequent meeting.

The chair appointed Messrs. Johnson, McMasters and Miller said committee.

On motion it was further

Resolved, That the chairman and secretary of this meeting be appointed to obtain a suitable place for holding the next meeting.

On motion of W. T. Miller the proceedings of the meeting were ordered published in the *Courier* and *Telegraph*.

On motion adjourned to meet next Saturday evening.

P. W. RANDLE, *Chairman*,
W. H. TURNER, *Secretary*."

On Saturday, Dec. 18, the *Courier* commented editorially on the above proceedings, and hoped to see a deep and active interest in the project and a full attendance at the adjourned meeting. The *Weekly Telegraph*, also, in its issue of Dec. 17th, gave the new enterprise a half column of favorable comment, and urged the citizens to turn out to the meeting. The *Courier* of the 21st inst. contained the proceedings of the adjourned meeting, from which we learn that the committee on constitution and by-laws presented a report, which was taken up for adoption, article by article, and all were adopted. Dr. Randle was absent from this meeting and Dr. Skillman presided.

On motion of Mr. Miller, nine commissioners were appointed to obtain subscriptions for stock in the library as follows: J. R. Woods, W. T. Miller, G. B. Ingersoll, Dr. R. L. Metcalf, J. J. Mitchell, Thos. R. Wallace, A. G. Wolford, John Atwood and Peter Gutzweiler. Messrs. W. T. Miller, Norton Johnson and Charles Trumbull were appointed to procure a suitable room for the association's use.

The constitution seems never to have been published, hence particulars of the plan of organization are lacking, but it is plain from later references thereto that the association was an unchartered joint stock company, with shares of \$5.00

each, and that the official name adopted was "The Alton Library Association."

The Alton *Telegraph* of Dec. 20th thus commented on the above meeting :

"The Alton Library Association completed its organization Saturday evening by adopting a constitution, and a very liberal beginning was made towards subscriptions to its stock. The number and intelligence of the gentlemen who have taken hold of this enterprise give assurance that it will be carried successfully forward."

The *Courier* of the 28th has this comment on the progress being made :

"We are glad to see that the Alton Library Association project is going right ahead. Over \$500 are already subscribed as capital stock. We hope the people will not stop short of \$1,000. Let every man in this community who has the public good at heart, at least sign for one share of stock, \$5.00."

At the adjourned meeting of the stockholders, Dec. 28th, at the Council room, the chairman was absent, and Mr. A. G. Wolford was called to preside, W. H. Turner, secretary. The commissioners reported, through Dr. Metcalf, that 141 shares of stock had been taken. The meeting adjourned to Saturday, Jan. 1, 1853, "at which time," the report continued, "the officers for the ensuing year will be elected."

The *Telegraph*, in commenting on the meeting, of the 28th, said :

"The Alton Library Association is designed to be, not a mere ephemeral affair which will speedily die out, but a permanent institution of our city, which will every year increase in means and usefulness."

At the adjourned meeting of stockholders, held Saturday, Jan. 1st, 1853, at Council room, Mr. A. G. Wolford presided.

On motion of W. T. Miller the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year as follows: President, P. W. Randle; Vice-President, Isaac Scarritt; Corresponding Secretary, Norton Johnson; Recording Secretary, W. H. Turner; Treasurer, W. T. Miller; Directors, A. G. Wolford, A. S. Barry, L. S. Metcalf, Harvey Burnett, S. W. Robbins.

Thus the date of the permanent organization of the association is fixed at Jan. 1, 1853, the previous meetings all being preliminary, the first meeting to consider the matter being held on Dec. 11th. It is therefore optional with the association to consider Dec. 11th, 1852, as its anniversary, or Jan. 1, 1853.

The next we hear of the association is the following card published in the *Courier* of Jan. 10th: "The Board of Directors of the Alton Library Association are hereby notified to meet at the office of Drs. Randle & Metcalf, Saturday evening, the 11th, at 7 o'clock. W. H. TURNER, Secretary."

At this meeting of the directors "active and spirited plans were adopted for the immediate usefulness of the institution."

Following this a period of inaction seems to have ensued, for the *Courier* of Feb. 18th plaintively inquires: "What has become of our new Library Association?" But on the 23d it responded to its own inquiry as below:

"The Board of Directors of the Library Association has rented the upper story of one of Bowman & Johnson's new buildings on Third street, rent free for one year, the association to be at the expense of putting in partitions, etc. Catalogues of books are being made up wherefrom to select to the number of several hundred volumes. The shelving and cases are being fitted up, and it is hoped that 1,000 volumes, at least, will be secured to commence with. The president of

the association, Dr. Randle, and the directors, are confident and sanguine of success. They have secured the services of H. G. M'Pike, Esq., to collect the subscriptions, obtain more stock, solicit donations of books and transact other business of the association. An institution of this description will prove a great blessing to the people, and particularly to the young men of the city. At present there is no place in Alton beyond a store, bar-room or oyster cellar where our young men can congregate and spend their time profitably, but now we look forward to a better state of things. The library will be open to stockholders in a few days."

On March 7th the *Courier* announced: "We are informed that the library rooms are now ready for the use of the members of the association, and will be thrown open this evening. A quantity of books are already secured, and a large lot of standard works are now being procured in the East. This is cheering news."

Thus the date of the formal opening of the library is established as March 7, 1853.

Although a suggestion of the *Courier* relative to a course of lectures by Wm. M. Thackeray, the English novelist, who was then in this country, was not acted on, the directors secured the services of Prof. Woodward, of St. Louis, for a series of thirteen lectures during the winter on philosophical and scientific subjects, to be delivered one each week. "These lectures," the *Courier* assumed, "would open the way to further usefulness on the part of the association. We predict that this institution will soon become one of the chief benefits and ornaments of the city."

This first lecture under the auspices of the association was delivered at its hall, May 11th, 1853. The editor of the *Courier* was debarred from the pleasure of attending (perhaps there were no free tickets), but understood that the attend-

ance was good considering the unfavorable state of the weather. Up to that time 150 season tickets had been sold. The first lecture by Prof. Woodward, on May 11th, was on "The Constitution of Matter"; the second, a week later, on "Light." "This lecture passed off fine. There were a great number of ladies present and Prof. Woodward said he could lecture better when such was the case." Possibly the world hasn't changed any in the last fifty years. How the learned professor would have soared had he dipped into the future and beheld not only the lecture course but the entire Library Association under the direction of ladies. This date, May 11th, 1853, is another anniversary to be fixed in the calendar of the association, commemorating the first lecture delivered before it. The *Courier* reported, later, that over 200 tickets had been sold for the course and concludes that "for this very desirable state of things, Dr. P. W. Randle, the whole-souled President of the association, and his associate officers, should have the praise."

On Sept. 28th the librarian, Utten Smith, announced that "a new addition of valuable works is now placed at the disposal of the members of the Alton Library Association." On Oct. 8th the *Courier* editorially advocated the organization of a literary society in connection with the association and urged the officers, also, to arrange for another course of lectures for the ensuing winter.

From a notice published Oct. 22nd it appears that the library had been moved to new quarters, "over William Nixon's store on Third street, opposite the Plank road," (now Belle street). The course of lectures above suggested for the association's second course, was arranged, opening Dec. 22nd. Among the speakers announced as secured were the following: Dr. Pope, Rev. W. G. Eliot, Rev. S. G. Gassaway, of St. Louis; Rev. J. B. Sturtevant, Prof. J. B. Turner, Rev. L. M. Glover, of Jacksonville; Rev. L. Grosvenor, of Jerseyville; Rev. D. Dimond, of Collinsville; Dr. Samuel Adams,

of ———; Rev. W. D. Haley and Rev. A. T. Norton, of Alton; Dr. John James, of Upper Alton. One of these lectures, that by Mr. Glover, treating of "Public Libraries, Their History, Uses and Moral Power," seems to have given a special stimulus to the work of the association. Dr. James' lecture on "The Probable Fate of Sir John Franklin", the ill-starred Arctic explorer, still lingers in the memory of old residents. Dr. James advanced the theory that the earth is a hollow sphere open at each pole; within this sphere is a habitable region; that Franklin had been drawn into an arctic current flowing into the opening at the North Pole and would be found within the earth at no distant time. His theory was in accord with that of John Cleves Symmes, of "Symmes' Hole" fame, and though novel and captivating has not been confirmed by later explorations. Rev. Mr. Gassaway, of whose address I find no record, was killed Feb. 16th, 1854, by the explosion of the Alton packet, Kate Kearney, at St. Louis levee.

The first annual meeting of the association was held in its lecture room on Dec. 5th, 1853, Rev. S. Y. McMasters presided. Art. 15 of the constitution was amended to read: "Each share of stock shall be taxed at least one dollar per annum." Art. 17 was so amended as to provide for a lyceum composed of the stock holders of the association. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, 1854: President, Isaac Scarritt; Vice President, A. S. Barry; Cor. Secretary, Norton Johnson; Rec. Secretary, W. H. Turner; Treasurer, S. W. Robbins. Directors, P. W. Randle, A. G. Wolford, S. Y. McMasters, W. D. Haley, J. L. Blair. I find no record of the next annual meeting, or of the officers elected, save a reference to the fact that Isaac Scarritt was still President early in 1855 and W. H. Turner Secretary, indicating that they were re-elected.

SECTION OF REFERENCE ROOM.





SECTION OF REFERENCE ROOM.

The *Courier* of April 26, 1855, contains the following article which so clearly outlines the work and progress of the association that the greater part of it is here reproduced:

"The Alton Library Association is steadily enlarging its field of operations and acquiring the means necessary to increase its usefulness. It has recently received a new supply of valuable books, including the works of Burke, DeQuincy, Chambers, Lamartine, Cooper, Bulwer, Edgeworth, the British Poets, and books for the juveniles. Much care has been exercised in selecting the most useful as well as interesting matter. The importance of the library association, and its influence, present and prospective, upon our city, though regarded with decided favor, are not, we fear, properly appreciated by our citizens. Many of our wisest and best citizens have labored earnestly and contributed liberally, to collect the wisdom of the past and of the present in a library composed of such books as will at the same time show the deformities of vice and the rewards of virtue. If parents and guardians would encourage this good object as they ought, the library would soon be the chief place of resort for the youth of our city. The fountains of vice and corruption would be dried up, and good order, intelligence and refinement would be characteristics of our people."

The third annual meeting of the stockholders of the association was held in the library rooms Oct. 27, 1855. Isaac Scarritt, President, was in the chair, W. H. Turner, Secretary. The President submitted his annual report which was approved. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, W. D. Haley; Vice President, Isaac Scarritt; Cor. Secretary, A. S. Barry; Rec. Secretary, H. G. M'Pike; Treasurer, J. M. Pearson. Directors, S. Y. McMasters, John W. Calvin, W. T. Miller, Chas. Trumbull, A. G. Welford.

There seems to have been no course of lectures in the winter of 1856-7, at least the writer finds no record thereof, but he has no file of the latter part of the year 1856 and hence no record of the annual meeting and election of officers.

At the annual meeting held Nov. 28th, 1857, B. F. Barry presided in the absence of the President. The annual report of the librarian showed that liberal donations of books had been made to the library by Hon. Lyman Trumbull; that there had been an increase of 12 shareholders during the year; that the number of books taken out by readers was 1197, an increase of 310 volumes over the previous year; that the whole number of books on the shelves of the library was 1026. The constitution was amended to read: "That persons who are not stockholders may receive books from the library under such regulations as the directors may adopt." The association was reported out of debt save a small balance due the librarian.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, John M. Pearson; Vice President, R. T. Underhill; Cor. Secretary, J. W. Stewart; Rec. Secretary, Charles Trumbull; Treasurer, W. C. Quigley; Librarian, Utten Smith. Directors, Louis Souther, C. M. Crandall, U. Smith, John Buckmaster, P. Pickard.

It will be noted that the amendment of the constitution, noted above, was an important step forward in extending the scope and privileges of the association, making it, in fact, a public library instead of one confined to the use of the stockholders.

The association again entered the lecture field during the winter of 1857-8 and arranged for a full course, opening with one by John G. Saxe, the famous poet-editor, on Dec. 22d, "on which occasion the ladies were largely represented." Other lecturers during the season were: Hon. W. H. Herndon, of Springfield, Lincoln's law partner and subsequent

biographer; Rev. J. G. Forman, Rev. S. Y. McMasters, Geo. S. Kellenberger, of Alton; Robt. P. Hamilton, of St. Louis; Hon. W. C. Flagg, of Moro; W. P. Jones, on "The Legend of the Piasa Bird." Rev. John Pierpont, the Boston poet, gave two readings from his poems, March 9th and 11th, 1858, before the society. During this winter on Jan. 11th, the Alton Literary Society, an offspring of the association, was organized with John M. Pearson as President; H. G. M'Pike, Secretary, and R. P. Tansey, Treasurer.

The following season, 1858-9, the association gave another course of twelve lectures under the direction of its committee, which consisted of J. M. Pearson, J. W. Stewart and J. M. Stanton. The course opened with three lectures by Rev. Henry Giles, "the noted divine, scholar, author and thinker." Other lecturers were: Rev. C. H. Taylor and Prof. E. Marsh, of Alton; Rev. Dr. R. Baird, the famous traveler; Hon. Thos. Dimmock and Rev. J. G. Forman, of Alton; Hon. Geo. D. Prentice, of Louisville; Hon. George Sumner, of Boston.

The Alton City Directory of 1858 contains the following reference:

"The Alton Library Association, located on Third street, was founded six years ago, in 1852, by means of subscriptions and shares, the holders of which are the stockholders of the association. The library contains many valuable books on modern and ancient history, biography, travels, natural history, poetry, arts, sciences, religion and politics. Terms, \$5.00 per share and \$1.00 per annum assessment. The present number of volumes on the shelves is 1,020, the value of which is \$1,000. The library is open Saturdays from 4 to 8 p.m., but any shareholder can be obliged on any day in the week by applying to the librarian at his office."

In the list of books it will be noticed that no mention is made of works of fiction. Those were evidently serious times.

In March, 1859, the Association and the Alton Literary Society removed to the hall on second floor of the Davis building, also on Third street, "the hall to be occupied on Monday evenings by the Literary society and on Saturday evenings by the Library association." At the time of the removal J. H. Underwood was President and Loren Kent, secretary of the Literary society. Mr. Kent was subsequently Colonel of the 29th Reg. Ills. Inft. and a brevet Brigadier General.

The librarian, Utten Smith, in giving notice that the library would be closed on March 5th, as the shelves were not ready for the books in the new hall, added: "All persons will please look over their books and see if they have any belonging to the library, as many books are missing."

The writer finds in these old newspaper files many allusions to various gatherings held in the library rooms for social, intellectual and charitable purposes. The association not only responded to the needs of the community for good literature, but maintained a literary society, supported lecture courses, and strove in divers ways to advance the higher interests of the people. Its public dinners or suppers, in aid of the library fund, were always a social as well as an epicurean success, thanks to the ladies. Hon. Jno. M. Pearson tells of a dinner, given about 1854, in a new building on State street, when a score of roast turkeys and dozens of chickens formed a part of the menu. He recalls that Gaius Paddock and himself were pressed into the service, and spent the afternoon carving turkeys. The dinner was a financial success, netting \$600 for the library.

From the year 1859 to 1866 the Library Association had a checkered career. Hon. Jno. M. Pearson was elected president in November, 1857. According to his recollection, he continued to serve, with sundry other officers chosen at the same time, year after year, without any election being held



NOOK OF LIBRARIAN'S ROOM



NOOK OF LIBRARIAN'S ROOM

for their successors. The reason was this: The public interest in the library was superceded, first, by the great political contest of 1860, then by the war for the Union which followed. The reading of the daily newspapers took the place of that of books, while political speeches and patriotic appeals crowded literary debates and lecture courses off the stage. No literature was in demand save that bearing on the great conflict. During the entire war Alton was a military post on the border, occupied by a large force. Many of the books of the library, drawn out by the soldiers, never found their way back to the shelves, but they fulfilled a high mission in relieving the tedium of garrison life and afforded hundreds of young volunteers opportunities for instruction which they had sacrificed when they left their homes to answer the call to arms. No more needful work was done than that achieved by the association in this way. But during this period the organization itself languished. Between drum beats and heart beats there was little thought given to measures for its advancement, and few were left to do the work. Many of its shareholders and patrons were in the field; others were occupied with patriotic duties at home. The ladies were busy holding fairs and festivals in aid of the sanitary commission; scraping lint for wounded soldiers and attending to the wants of the sick in the hospitals. The Women's Union League, of which Mrs. H. S. Mathews, one of the association's present directors, was the President, absorbed the time of the ladies. Old settlers recall the great fair in the City Hall, at which Gen. Rosecrans was present, held under the auspices of the League, at which \$3,000 were raised for the sanitary commission. In that great crisis libraries and lecture courses had to abide their time.

In the fall of 1862 the library was removed from its Third street home to a room on Short street, where Mr. Pearson had an office and where a Mr. Leech and Mr. J. T. Willard, book-keepers for the Godfrey estate, acted, in turns, as

librarians, gratuitously, when any one called for books, the rooms not being then opened at regular times. These gentlemen must have succeeded Mr. Utten Smith, the faithful librarian from the beginning, whose death in 1863 was preceded by a long illness. The assessments due from shareholders remained unpaid and the organization was practically dormant. But the library and other property continued to be cared for by such officials as Mr. Pearson, Mr. John Buckmaster, Mr. James W. Stewart, and others who remained. Mr. Pearson's recollection is that the last person who acted as Secretary was Mr. Julius Leech, son of the gentleman named above. During this period, while many books drawn out were never returned, as stated, still donations of books were occasionally received which kept up the number so that, although the association had no money with which to buy new publications, there were, at the close of the war, almost as many volumes on the shelves as in the days of the association's prosperity.

But now we come to a new era in the history of an institution which had accomplished much for the public good through years of prosperity and years of adversity. And the renaissance came about in this way: In the latter part of 1865 certain persons in Quincy who were organizing, or had organized, a similar society there, hearing of the condition of the library here, made an offer to purchase the books and remove them to that city. This becoming known aroused local interest again in the affairs of the association. It was felt that it would be a public calamity to have the library removed. An effort was at once made for the resuscitation of the association. Foremost in this work were Mrs. J. J. Mitchell and Mrs. A. S. Barry, two public-spirited ladies, who at once took steps to interest city officials and citizens generally in the matter. They found ready helpers in Mayor Edward Hollister and others. Their efforts resulted in arrange-

ments being made for the purchase of the library for its indebtedness, which amounted to some \$165. The story of this transaction is best told in a memorandum prepared for the re-organized institution by Messrs. John Fitch, the Secretary, and Mr. R. W. Atwood, at the request of the directors. It prefaces the present records of the association, and reads as follows:

"The Alton Library Association, an unchartered joint stock company, was originated in this city in the year 1852. Several hundred copies of valuable books were donated to or purchased by that association. Its success was quite flattering for several years, but, by removal of many of its early members, by inattention of others and, finally, by the excitement of the war of the rebellion, it fell into disuse. For about three years of its latter course, its doors were unopened to the public, and the books received no proper care and attention. In 1866, debts accumulated against said association threatened to swallow up the library and the society advertised the library and appurtenances for sale to pay debts. The ladies of Alton were aroused at this notice and by vigorous action raised a fund to purchase and maintain the library under new auspices. At said public sale they were represented by Hon. E. Hollister, the then Mayor of the City of Alton, and purchased the library in accordance with the following bill of sale and which is the original instrument in the premises:

"Know all men by these presents, That the undersigned committee, appointed by the Alton Library Association, in pursuance of the authority vested in us by said association, have this day sold, at public auction, the library belonging to said association unto Mrs. Caroline Mitchell and Mrs. Catherine Barry, at and for the sum of \$165.00, they being the highest bidders therefor, and we do, by these presents, deliver unto them possession of said library.

It is also understood and agreed between us and the

aforesaid parties, that said library is to be retained and maintained in the City of Alton as a public library forever:

Witness our hands this 28th day of February, A. D. 1866.

(SIGNED)

JOHN M. PEARSON,
A. G. WOLFORD,
JOHN FITCH,

Committee."

According to the recollection of Mr. Pearson the library was bid in for the amount of the indebtedness then outstanding. Included in this, he says, was the sum of \$121.00 due Mr. John E. Hayner for rent of rooms. This sum Mr. Hayner generously donated to the new organization, thus early inaugurating the munificent benefactions which subsequently reached such full fruition in the splendid edifice which now stands as a monument of his philanthropic interest in the welfare of his fellow men.

On the same date as the sale recorded above, the evening of Feb. 28th, a public meeting was held in Mercantile Hall in the interest of the permanent re-establishment of the library. Mayor E. Hollister presided; Messrs. M. H. Topping and J. H. Hibbard, Vice-Presidents; and John Atwood, Esq., Secretary. After remarks by various gentlemen in favor of the object in view an organization was effected by electing the following officers:

President, Hon. Robert Smith; Vice-President, Hon. Levi Davis, Sr.; Secretary, Mr. John Fitch; Treasurer, M. H. Topping. Also a Board of Directors composed of ladies and gentlemen, as below: Mesdames J. J. Mitchell, A. S. Barry, E. Hollister, A. Sweet, J. H. Hibbard and Miss Fanny Guernsey; Messrs. M. H. Topping, R. W. Atwood, Thos. Dimmock, R. P. Tansey, C. A. Murray and Wm. Eliot Smith.

Mr. John W. Ash, having volunteered to act as librarian, gratis, the ensuing year, his offer was gratefully accepted.



Mrs. J. J. MITCHELL.

At this meeting the sum of \$300 was raised for the purchase of new books and a committee of ladies appointed to canvass the city for further funds.

It appears that previous to this meeting the northwest corner room, second floor of City Building, had been secured for library use and the books were removed thither. The first meeting of the directors was held in this room, March 2d, 1866. At a subsequent meeting, held March 10th, a report of the committee on Constitution and By-laws was accepted with sundry amendments. In the original organization membership was limited to shareholders, the shares being \$5.00 each and subject to an annual assessment of \$1.00. The new constitution abolished the share feature and extended membership to any citizen of Alton paying two dollars per year.

At the meeting, Oct. 6th, Mr. John Fitch resigned as Secretary, owing to removal from the city, and Mr. John W. Ash was elected to the vacancy. A winter course of lectures was arranged by a committee, of which Mr. R. W. Atwood was chairman. The social feature was not neglected, and on Nov. 4th Mesdames Barry and Mitchell were appointed a committee to arrange for a library party or ball. This festive gathering took place later and inaugurated many other like functions in the years following.

At the annual meeting March 23d, 1867, Hon. Robt. Smith retired as President and was awarded a vote of thanks for his services. Mr. Smith, it may be remarked in passing, was a member of Congress for four terms, prior to the war, his last term expiring in 1859. At this meeting Capt. E. Hollister was elected President; Wm. Eliot Smith, Vice-President; J. W. Ash, Secretary and Librarian, and M. H. Topping, Treasurer. At the annual election, March 28th, 1868, the same officers were re-elected.

UNDER THE NEW REGIME.

During the next few months the interest in the society was evidently waning, although its financial condition continued good. The masculine directors, apparently, lost interest and the directors' meetings were irregular and slimly attended. It became evident that the future of the society rested with the lady directors—in which view the gentlemen seemed to fully coincide. The records are silent as to the causes leading to the change of management, but at the annual meeting for 1869, held June 5th, only seven of the twelve directors were present, five ladies and two gentlemen. At this meeting the following revolutionary resolution was passed:

"Resolved, That the constitution be so amended that the Board of Directors shall consist of all ladies."

As there was just a quorum in session it is evident that the gentlemen must have voted for the amendment which reduced them to the ranks. A full board of lady directors was immediately selected as follows: Mesdames J. J. Mitchell, E. Hollister, A. S. Barry, H. W. Billings, N. Hanson, J. H. Hibbard, L. O. Kendall, W. T. Miller, R. G. Perley, J. W. Schweppe and P. B. Whipple. Mrs. Mitchell was elected President; Mrs. Hollister, Vice President; Miss G. Paddock, Secretary and Treasurer, and Miss M. J. Loudon, Librarian.

The ladies assumed their responsibilities with the resolution to make the society a success. At a called meeting held July 2nd, Mrs. Mitchell presided and only ladies were present, except Mr. M. H. Topping, the retiring treasurer, who acted as secretary pro. tem. and made the last entry on the record book over a masculine signature.

Heretofore the history of the society has been given, much in detail, owing to the fact that up to 1866 the official records, such as had been kept, were missing, and it seemed

necessary to give the annals, collected from other sources, as fully as possible to supply the missing links, but from 1869 onward it is designed to give only a running sketch of the operations of the society, as the records kept since the reorganization are complete and available. Under the new management the library prospered from the start. The ladies exhibited great interest in their voluntary work for the good of the public, and their management of affairs was admirable. For a period of twenty-two years under their control the society was without a home of its own, and was repeatedly subject to the expense of removals and fitting up new quarters. But, although the receipts from membership fees averaged only about 25 per cent of the amount required to maintain the work of the society, still they never ran in debt, and at every annual meeting the receipts showed a handsome balance in the treasury. Expenses were carefully guarded and any surplus amount was immediately put out at interest in order that it might be earning money. For instance, at the close of the first year, under the ladies' excellent management, the sum drawing interest had increased to \$480. Constant additions were made to the books on the shelves, proportioned to the cash available, and not only that but the directors were scrupulously careful as to the character of the literature added, no book that might exert a pernicious influence on the reader being admitted. At the close of the fiscal year, 1876, there were 3,500 books on the shelves, and the President reported the library more flourishing than ever.

With so small an income from the membership, which included all patrons of the library, it was remarkable that so high a financial standing could have been maintained. How did they do it? In the first place they considered that it was a part of their mission not only to provide intellectual culture for the people by supplying them with high-grade literature, but to provide for their entertainment and recrea-

tion and to contribute to the social life of the city. So entertainments of various kinds in the interest of the library became regular features of the winter season. These included lectures, dramas, old folks' concerts, calico and Dolly Varden parties, Naiad Queen, wax works, jubilee singers, suppers and fairs. These entertainments were by both amateurs and professionals. Many lecturers of national reputation appeared before Alton audiences, under the auspices of the society, including such celebrities as Jno. G. Saxe, Horace Greeley, Theodore Tilton, George Alfred Townsend, J. G. Holland, Anna Dickinson, T. W. Higginson, Moses Coit Tyler, Schuyler Colfax, Jehu Baker and others, together with local clergymen. The lectures were not always directly remunerative, but they served a good purpose in keeping the interests of the society before the public. The ladies did not spare themselves. The office of director was no sinecure. At every monthly meeting ways and means of raising funds were discussed and devised. At one period they held annual sales and suppers, which proved more remunerative than other means of raising funds and were given the preference. The ladies met at the homes of the directors in turn, the time not needed for business being employed in making articles of use or beauty for the fairs, suitable for the holiday season. At these meetings each director paid five cents, and any director bringing her own work was fined ten cents. Absence from a regular meeting, without good excuse sent in advance, subjected a member to a fine of twenty-five cents. Discipline, it seems, is necessary even in philanthropic work, and the ladies were severe with themselves.

The continuous additions made to the library soon caused the library room to become too crowded to display the books properly or to accommodate the patrons. The ladies finally petitioned the City Council to provide larger accommodations for library purposes, and on the 3rd

of April, 1871, Alderman A. S. Haskell introduced a resolution in the City Council granting the use of the former market room in the City Building to the Library Society for a term of five years, free of rent. The resolution passed by a majority vote. The room leased was large, airy and well adapted to the purpose, and the action of the council at once put the society on a firmer footing and enlarged its opportunities for usefulness. On May 18th, 1871, the directors received the new room from the contractor and held a public reception in the evening. A paper prepared by the president was read by Mayor J. T. Drummond which gave a *resume* of the condition of the Association, its needs and resources, and presented the thanks of the directors to generous friends for timely donations of furnishings and decorations for the new hall.

At the annual meeting, June 9th, the work of the Association was systematized by the appointment of standing committees, and the allotment of directors to visit the rooms in turn, each Saturday, to greet the patrons and keep in touch with the membership.

At the annual meeting for 1873, Mrs. Mitchell, having removed to St. Louis, sent in her resignation as President, but expressed her unabated interest in the library and willingness to remain on the directorate. The resignation was accepted with regret, Mrs. Mitchell having filled the office with signal ability for four years. Mrs. E. Hollister was chosen as her successor.

At this meeting Mrs. J. P. Laird was elected a director. The date is memorable, from the fact that it marked the advent into the councils of the Board of the present admirable President, whose connection therewith consequently covers over thirty-five years of continuous service, a record of gratuitous devotion to the public weal probably unequalled in the country. At this meeting, Mrs. A. S. Haskell, the Vice-

President, made the practical suggestion that "a few new books of current literature added monthly would keep up public interest better than large purchases once or twice a year," a suggestion that has been followed ever since with good results. The financial panic of 1873-4 affected the society unfavorably, and the usual lectures and entertainments were suspended. During the following winter the funds of the society were running low and Mrs. F. K. Nichols, a director, received the thanks of the board for collecting \$78.00 by personal solicitation. But notwithstanding the hard times the good management of the society kept a fair balance on the right side of the ledger.

At the annual meeting, June 17, 1875, Mrs. Hollister resigned as President, the board expressing regret at losing the services of so efficient an officer, and Mrs. R. G. Perley, who had served acceptably as Secretary, was chosen her successor. It was decided to inaugurate a young people's literary society under the auspices of the board. In the fall of 1875, the City Council having decided to lease the library room for the Post Office, the directors petitioned the council to provide other quarters for the library, and the northeast corner room, on the first floor of the City Building was offered, and library removed thereto. Fitting up this room involved an expense of \$300, but the work was done and a reading room also included, a special fund of \$400 being raised for the purpose. The reading room was opened April 10, 1876. It was kept open every evening and on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, and for a time in the morning, also. It averaged about 200 readers, monthly, but proved a clog on the society, and was finally closed in the fall of 1880.

The winter of 1878-9 proved a trying one for the association. In January there was a disastrous fire in the City Building. The books and fixtures of the library were hur-

riedly removed to a room on Market street, and the library was practically closed for several weeks pending repairs to the room, which were not completed until April, when the library was formally reopened. The association experienced considerable loss by the fire, but received \$130.80 insurance for missing books and damages to furniture and shelving.

From Feb. 4th, 1879, to April 6th, 1880, Mrs. A. T. Hawley, the Vice-President, acted as President *pro tem*, in the absence of Mrs. Perley, and again as President in the fall of 1885.

At the annual meeting June 7, 1880, Miss Florence Dolbee was elected Librarian, a position she is still filling with great credit and to the satisfaction of the public.

The annual meeting in June, 1882, was notable for the election of Mrs. Laird for President, Mrs. Perley, who had served several years with remarkable ability, resigning to go abroad. It may be remarked in passing that Mrs. Perley is the author of "From Timber to Town," a novel of pioneer life. She enjoys the distinction of preserving from oblivion the quaint dialect of southern Illinois and crystalizing it into literature.

At the December meeting, 1884, a financial extremity seemed impending and "all agreed that money for the support of the library must come from somewhere." It was even discussed "whether it would be wise to ask for the city's receipts from dog tax, supposing the council to be favorable to the library." But, although this suggestion indicated that the people in general were not giving the library proper support a local paper of that year said: "The Library Association is a great public benefit and is conducted in a most efficient and business-like manner. The people of Alton are under real obligations to the public-spirited ladies who con-

stitute the Association for their able and valuable service rendered gratuitously for the benefit of our citizens." But it took more than compliments to keep the exchequer in good condition. Still affairs improved later on, and the annual report in June, 1886, showed amount received from subscriptions, \$338.90, a gratifying increase; from entertainments, \$325.80; balance on hand, \$441.57.

A valued director, Mrs. C. M. Crandall, removing to California in the fall of 1887, the directors presented her with a breastpin as a token of esteem.

The winter of 1887-8 the desirability of obtaining new quarters for the library was obtrusively apparent. To carry on the work of the Association properly a permanent home was essential, a building of its own especially adapted to library purposes. In furtherance of this object it was announced, at the January meeting, that Mr. Jno. E. Hayner would give the sum of \$500 for building purposes providing \$4,500 was raised otherwise. Mrs. C. L. Wright and Mrs. O. S. Stowell offered to give a desirable lot on Belle street if the association would erect a building thereon for library purposes. Both offers were gratefully accepted. The first step towards raising a building fund, in connection with the generous offers of Mr. Hayner, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Stowell, was taken at the meeting held February, 1888, when, on motion of Mrs. Hawley, the sum of \$14.05, the proceeds of a lecture by Mr. McNeil, was set aside as the nucleus of a building fund.

The meeting held in March was a mournful one. During the previous month the angel of death summoned two of the directors, Mrs. W. W. Martin, the President, and Mrs. Jennie D. Hayner. The minutes of the Secretary, Mrs. M. F. Topping, record that "these were the first two deaths in the long list of directors since the library was reorganized." On the

CHILDREN'S ROOM. LOOKING NORTH.





CHILDREN'S ROOM. LOOKING NORTH.

announcement of the Board's double bereavement appropriate memorials were presented.

A memorandum in the records by Mrs. Laird, reads:

"The year 1888 was the saddest in the history of the library. Death came to Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Hayner so suddenly, and to us so unexpectedly, that we did nothing but simply carry the work along in a mechanical way. At a called meeting of the President *pro tem.* we simply made a few remarks. Two of the directors read short papers, '*In Memoriam,*' and silently we separated.

Our bright and joyous Mrs. Martin left us Feb. 13th. Our quiet and gentle Mrs. Hayner followed her Feb. 24th. Truly a rich harvest for the grim reaper."

At the April meeting Mrs. W. A. Haskell was elected a director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. Hayner, and at the May meeting Mrs. N. D. Williams was chosen to succeed Mrs. Martin.

The labor of raising a building fund was now the paramount issue before the society and vigorous action was taken by the directors with that end in view. At a meeting held May 1st it was voted to make a general canvass for subscriptions to the fund and to incorporate the society under the State law so that it could hold real estate.

Another calamity overtook the society on the 29th of March, 1889, by a second fire in the City Hall building which turned the library again out of doors. The books and cases were removed to the Haagen building, corner of Second and Market streets, which became the temporary home of the library. The loss to the society by the fire was very considerable, but the insurance adjuster only allowed the directors \$200, an amount which was felt to be very inadequate. Repairs to the library room having been completed the books were removed and the old quarters re-opened. In January, 1890, the treasury showed its highest balance, \$777.17; this, of course,

being distinct from the building fund, which was likewise steadily increasing.

But a brighter day was dawning for the society and its noble-hearted, self-sacrificing directors. Mr. John E. Hayner, for many years Alton's foremost citizen and most successful business man, had long been interested in the society, especially since the connection of his wife, Mrs. Jennie D. Hayner, therewith, and her lamented death, and as a memorial of her interest therein he determined to erect a library building from his own means for the use of the society. It was a noble and philanthropic purpose, and grandly carried forward. On March 4th, 1890, his intention was officially announced to the directors and was received with great rejoicing. That the end for which they had been striving for years with such persistent devotion was to be achieved at last, and in a completeness above their dreams seemed almost beyond belief. But the good news did not deter the directors from continuing the work of themselves raising funds. A new equipment would be needed and an increase of current expenses was involved.

With the prospective intention of largely increasing the number of books in the library the duties of the Book committee became more onerous, and they were always taxing, and the Chairman thereof, Mrs. Wright, was relieved of her duties as Treasurer, that she might give more time to book selections.

The site purchased by Mr. Hayner for the new building was at the corner of State and Fourth streets, on land owned by Mrs. C. L. Wright and Mrs. O. S. Stowell who donated the purchase price to the library. The corner stone was laid early in 1890. The work was pushed rapidly forward and the new and spacious home of the library soon arose in lines of architectural beauty.

The necessary legal steps were taken for merging the mem-

bership of the old society into a new incorporated organization to be known as the "Jennie D. Hayner Library Association," and of transferring all of the books and property of the former to the latter. The transfer was effected at a special meeting of the membership at the Library room May 5, 1891, Mrs. C. B. Rohland being chairman of the meeting and Miss Florence Dolbee, Secretary. It was additionally provided that all money given by the Library directors and former directors to the building fund should be also transferred to the new organization and kept intact in perpetuity as a special endowment to be known as the "Emeline Martin Fund," the interest only to be available for the use of the association. This fund amounted to some \$950. It was intended as a memorial to Mrs. Martin as the new building was to Mrs. Hayner.

The new building was ready for occupancy in May, 1891, and the books were transferred from the old home into the new. In celebration of the great event the ladies gave an inaugural reception at the new building which proved a delightful function. The spacious new edifice, in all its appointments, was much admired by the guests present. The next day, May 22nd, the doors were closed on the old home, and on June 1st the Hayner Memorial Library was opened to the public, marking a grand new era in the association's history. And now under favoring auspices made possible by Mr. Hayner's benefactions, the association resumed its work on a larger scale and with vastly improved facilities in its beautiful new home. Under the new incorporation the directors in office at the time of the transfer became the first official board under the new. They were:

Mrs. J. P. Laird, President; Mrs. C. L. Wright, Vice President; Mrs. M. F. Topping, Rec. Secretary; Mrs. H. C. Priest, Cor. Secretary; Mrs. A. T. Hawley, Treasurer; Mrs.

A. K. Root, Mrs. J. F. Randall, Mrs. W. A. Haskell, Mrs. N. D. Williams, Mrs. W. B. Pierce, Mrs. H. S. Mathews, Mrs. H. Stanford.

Several incidents of interest are noted in the records the following year; one was the presentation to the association by Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Haskell of a \$500 government bond, in memory of their young daughter, the interest thereon to be expended annually for juvenile books.

Another entry in the records states that in March, 1892, the secretary, Mrs. M. F. Topping, a director of the society for twenty years, resigned on her removal to Jacksonville, and the ladies as a token of their regard presented her with a selection of choice books. Mrs. E. P. Wade was chosen her successor.

A pleasant surprise to the directors of the May meeting of 1892, was the presentation to the library by Mrs. J. J. Mitchell, the first lady president, of a fine oil portrait of herself, which now adorns the librarian's room.

This first year in the new building showed a large increase in the number of books issued, the total being 12,408. The President, in her annual address, glanced backward to the days when they so often exclaimed, "Will the time ever come when this society will have a permanent home!" and in congratulating the members on the realization of their dreams through Mr. Hayner's generous benefaction, said, "Long may he live to see and enjoy the good he has done and be able to say in his innermost heart, 'I builded better than I knew.'"

The work of increasing the endowment fund was pushed vigorously, special honor being due to Mrs. A. K. Root, Mrs. W. B. Pierce, Mrs. H. C. Priest and Mrs. H. S. Mathews for their successful canvass, and within a year the fund had increased to \$4,000 and eventually reached \$5,000.

CHILDREN'S ROOM. LOOKING SOUTH.





CHILDREN'S ROOM. LOOKING SOUTH.

In March, 1893, Mrs. W. A. Haskell was elected Recording Secretary and served some ten years thereafter most acceptably. The President in her reports for 1894 and 1895 urged the directors to labor to make the library an educational centre, and asked parents to co-operate with the librarian in selecting suitable reading for the young people. It was also essential to interest new-comers in the city, as the old friends were passing away. Lists were later prepared of persons who ought to be members of the society and their subscriptions solicited. Mrs. H. C. Priest resigning in 1894, to go abroad, Mrs. M. C. Hayner, the present able Vice-President, was elected a director and later made Chairman of the Book Committee.

In February, 1895, the building was wired for electric lights, Mrs. H. B. Bowman assuming the expense of lighting for the first year.

In January, 1896, the death of Mrs. N. D. Williams was recorded and after the adoption of resolutions of respect to her memory, her niece, Mrs. Theo. D. Wead, was elected Corresponding Secretary in her place, an office she still fills with great credit.

Among the donations received during 1896 was an oil portrait of Mrs. A. S. Barry, the first lady Vice-President, presented by her daughter, Mrs. W. B. Gilbert; also a painting of the Piasa Bird, presented by Mrs. B. F. Child, of Hardin.

During the year 1897 the library was opened, experimentally, on Saturday morning, but the innovation did not result favorably and was discontinued the following year. The library was further enriched this year by a generous donation of books from Dr. W. A. Haskell.

The subject of an improved system of cataloguing the books had long been discussed by the directors, and the card system, known technically as the Dewey Decimal System,

which would be practically perpetual, was finally adopted, and the plan was put in operation in the winter of 1900-01, under the supervision of Miss Gale and the librarian.

In the spring of 1901 a proposition was received from Andrew Carnegie relative to erecting a library building in Alton, but it was respectfully declined, as a further generous donation by Mr. Hayner to the endowment fund had made the library absolutely free to all citizens of Alton, and further provided for opening its doors three days in the week instead of two. The acceptance of the Carnegie offer to build a library building would have involved a perpetual tax on citizens for its maintainance, but Mr. Hayner's benefaction made it free for all time. This is a feature which many of our citizens do not fully appreciate. Mr. Carnegie's gifts of library buildings, in other cities, involve an annual tax, but, thanks to Mr. Hayner, Altonians have no such burden to bear. And, further, it is notable that this memorial library is the only free library in the land, so far as known, wholly under the management of ladies.

At the annual meeting in 1901 Mrs. Wm. Eliot Smith, who became a liberal donor to the association, was elected a director. The charter of the association and the by-laws were amended to conform to the new conditions of a free library, the change taking effect July 1st.

This year, 1901, was saddened by the death of two valued members of the board of directors, Mrs. H. B. Bowman and Mrs. Chas. L. Wright. The son of the former, Mr. E. M. Bowman, in memory of his mother, donated to the society a sum sufficient to make her life membership perpetual. Mrs. Wright, ever a generous friend of the society and an invaluable official, was, the President said, in a tribute to her memory, "one of the brightest women Alton ever produced." Her sister, Mrs. O. S. Stowell, also one of the association's liberal contributors, was chosen as her successor.

Mrs. A. K. Root, a liberal contributor to the association, resigned this year, and Mrs. E. L. Drury, the present efficient Treasurer, succeeded her.

The 19th of March, 1903, the association sustained the greatest bereavement in its history in the death of its noble benefactor, Mr. John E. Hayner, a loss which shrouded the city in gloom. One of his last acts before his fatal illness was to add \$4,000 more to the library's endowment fund. At the time of his death Mr. Hayner's plans for the endowment of the society were incomplete. He purposed to increase the endowment to \$50,000. He had already given \$15,000, in addition to the building, and the society had \$5,000 from other sources, making its endowment at that time \$20,000. In order to carry out his wishes, his widow, Mrs. Mary Caroline Hayner; his daughter, Mrs. W. A. Haskell, and his grand son, Mr. Jno. A. Haskell, each subsequently donated to the library \$10,000, thus bringing the endowment up to \$50,000. Dr. and Mrs. Haskell endowed also the juvenile library in the sum of \$500, and Dr. Haskell has endowed the medical library he donated to the association to the amount of \$2,500. This increases the total permanent endowment to \$53,000—all interest bearing. Mr. John A. Haskell further added an annex to the library building, furnished complete, at a cost of \$13,000. The original building cost \$20,000, thus making the donations of Mr. Hayner and his heirs \$81,000, not including continuous contributions to running expenses, repairs and furnishings, that up to the present time aggregate several thousand more. It is a noble record of disinterested beneficence which will continue to bless this community through coming generations.

Mr. Hayner was the friend and benefactor of the society from its reorganization in 1866 until his death, and while his material benefactions had placed it on an enduring foundation there are other reasons why his memory will be cherished

among the association's sacred legacies: for the long period of thirty-seven years the directors were encouraged and strengthened by his kindly interest in and sympathetic appreciation of their self-denying work. Who gives himself with his gift doubles the value of his offering. It is not so much what we give as what we share that counts in the final analysis, and it was this quality in Mr. Hayner's giving that appealed most strongly to those cognizant thereof and will remain their most valued possession. At the April meeting of the association appreciative memorial action was taken on his death, and the tribute which prefaces these annals was ordered engrossed on parchment and presented to the members of his family.

The impetus given to the association by Mr. Hayner's action in making the library absolutely free to the public was at once apparent, as the report at the annual meeting in 1903 showed 37,821 books issued during the year, the largest number issued in any one year prior to that time being some 12,400, a gain which indicated how far-reaching the increase had become.

The association was now in easy circumstances financially and the necessity for entertainments, lectures, parties, suppers and fairs had passed away, and in 1905 the annual suppers and sales, which for years had been held in the lower hall of the library building, were abandoned. This was a great relief to the ladies, but a distinct loss to the public. These gatherings under the hospitable management of the ladies were pleasant social functions as well as epicurean delights. No one willingly missed the famous "Library suppers," where good will and choice viands were ever in evidence.

The spacious annex erected by Mr. Jno. A. Haskell was completed in 1907, and occupied in the fall of that year. It was complete in all appointments and splendidly furnished. It included a children's room on first floor, a reference room

and stack room on main floor. This children's room is a new and delightful feature of the library and a great boon to the young people. It was opened in the spring of 1908.

In 1906, Mrs. W. B. Pierce passed away, and Mrs. J. F. Randall resigned to go abroad. Both were valued members. Their places were filled by the election of Mrs. J. A. Haskell and Mrs. Frank L. Taylor. Another bereavement has lately fallen on the directors in the death of Mrs. E. P. Wade, a loved and efficient associate.

The growth of the library from small beginnings to its present great expansion, made possible by the Hayner-Haskell donations and endowments, is illuminatingly evident in its last report, for the fiscal year ended May 1, 1908. A few salient items tell the story: Total number of books in library 10,638. Since then there have been several notable accessions. Total number of books issued, 40,107, a gain of 5,219 over the previous year. Number of readers' cards in force, 4,091.

And now with this glance at the constantly extending usefulness and popularity of the society, the annals of the Hayner Memorial Library and its forerunners draw to a close. The record of fifty-six years of devoted service is a long one, and far more has been omitted than recorded. It is a story of unselfish endeavor crowned by splendid success. It is a tribute to disinterested womanhood and philanthropic manhood. Of the noble benefactor, whose desire to uplift and benefit his fellow men, crystalized in erecting and placing this great public institution on a permanent basis, it can truly be said:

"Monumentum ære perennis."

AN APPRECIATION.

A request has been made that the present president of the Board of Directors of the Jennie D. Hayner Library should add something to the well-written history that Mr. W. T. Norton has given from the time of the inception of a library in Alton.

In answer I can only say it is a pleasure to me to write of the women who served long and unselfishly to permanently establish it, and tell something of the struggle from 1873 to 1891, at which time Mr. John E. Hayner presented to the Association the building now occupied.

Perhaps no one ought to know any better than the writer, who became a director in 1873, and still remains one. She may be able to tell something that will interest the readers.

To expedite matters, a copy verbatim of her address to the directors at the first annual meeting in the Memorial building is given:

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE JENNIE D. HAYNER LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT ITS FIRST ANNUAL MEETING MAY, 1891.

"I hope I may be excused for wishing to say a few words by way of farewell to the Alton Public Library Association and its Board of Directors. I do it not sorrowfully, but with something of a hallelujah in my heart.

"We cannot, however, help looking back upon the years that have sometimes been so full of hard work, and thinking that many of us have felt like saying: 'We drag so through



Mrs. L. M. LAIRD.

the weary days, perhaps we had better pass over what there is of a Library to the City Fathers and let them do as they think best with it.' The day never came when we could really decide to do this. We were certain that the fate of the Library would be sealed; lost to the people of Alton; our work would be for naught, and only an ignominious failure the result. But we worked on, hoping the day would come when the Library would care for itself through an increased membership.

"During the past twenty-two years everything in the way of entertainments has been given for its support. Dickens entertainments, Spelling Schools, Lectures, Dramas, Old Folks' Concerts, Naiad Queen, Jubilee Singers, Wax Works, with Mrs. Leander Mitchell as Mrs. Jarley, and again with Captain Henry M. Scarritt as Artemus Ward. We will always remember Mrs. Perley as Mrs. Bardell, Mr. W. B. Pierce as Pickwick, Mrs. Pierce as Sairey Gamp, Major George S. Roper, Mr. Ed. Kellenberger, Mr. Fred Hoffmeister and wife, with many others in the Wax Works. And the Calico Balls, when Mrs. J. J. Mitchell and Mrs. A. S. Barry danced themselves tired for the benefit of the Library. And the Spelling School in Mercantile Hall, when a silver medal was given to the best speller, Mr. William C. Gates; and Captain Eaton, of blessed memory (the honored father of Mrs. A. K. Root), earned the leather medal by succeeding in being the very worst speller. We will never forget how he spelled Fuchsia. Mr. W. F. Everts, in his numerous characters as comedian, villain and singer. The inimitable Robert B. Smith with his magnificent tenor voice. The song, 'Thou Art So Near and Yet So Far,' will never grow old because of him. Dr. C. B. Rohland as musician and as 'old man' in the comedies. Captain Henry M. Scarritt with his delightful little plays, assisted at one time by Miss Lizzie Mitchell. Dr. Charles Davis and Hon. Henry O. Billings in

as pretty a drama as was ever given anywhere, 'The Magic Mirror.' But, alas! our receipts were correspondingly small. Who so patient and kind as Prof. E. A. Haight? He always responded with his courtly manner when asked to aid us in this work; Mrs. E. A. Haight and his brother, Prof. R. A. Haight, always ably assisting. Their 'Old Folks' Concerts' were as good as were ever given anywhere. These amused the public, but expenses were great, and we could not work for anything that did not bring money into the treasury, much as we might wish to please the public.

"We tried lectures. Among those who came to us was J. G. Holland, who put us all in a good humor with him before he began his lecture by staring at us in a comical way until we were all laughing, and he as heartily as any of us. Anna Dickinson (late events make us think of her sorrowfully), brave woman, she has talked well to place women upon a higher plane. Mrs. Mary Livermore, dear motherly woman, who still holds the rostrum with her wonted vigor. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Schuyler Colfax, and Moses Coit Tyler; I have never seen his name in print since, but I have felt ashamed that his audience was so small. We had the scholarly Emerson, who gave us the good advice to 'stay at home.' I have always thought that Emerson knew better than we that we should not have reached out to cultured Concord for a man to talk to an Alton audience, for the lecture course left us with a depleted treasury. Two winters after we were persuaded to allow a company of colored Jubilee Singers to come under the auspices of the Library Association. We supposed they were of the order of the 'Hampton Student Singers.' The City Hall was packed, and we listened to a noisy, rackety and very funny minstrel performance. We laughed because we could not help it, but we felt undignified and out of place. To show how hard it is to please every one, a lady said to me: 'Mrs.

Laird, this is the best thing the Library ladies have ever given. I have enjoyed it very much.' Another one said to me: 'This is a most disgraceful entertainment for you Library ladies to give.' I could not tell then which remark made me most unhappy. We netted \$100.00, but we did not feel comfortable. After two or three spasmodic efforts in the lecture field, followed by as many failures, because we made no money, we settled upon our annual sale and supper, which seemed to be the only thing worth trying.

"We have had our times of sorrow, too. How many years we worked together without missing one by death, but swifter than we knew the blow came with double force. In the winter of 1888, in the short space of two weeks, Mrs. Jennie D. Hayner and Mrs. Martin were called to their 'Heavenly Home.' The loss seemed irreparable. Mrs. Hayner, in her quiet, modest way, whether present or absent, never failed to show in many ways how much her heart was in this work. We can say of her, 'None knew her but to love her, none named her but to praise.'

"Mrs. Martin, with her quick helpful hands and cheerful ways, how many hard places her strong will helped us over. It seemed the flash of her eye gave us cheer. Her last message to us: 'Get an honest dollar wherever you can.' We think of them now as

'Around each peaceful brow
The soft celestial breezes blow,
From all earth's noon-tide heat
They're sheltered now.'

"Through all, we constantly wished and hoped for suitable quarters for the library. Many times we were forced to believe we were occupying precious room in the City Building, but we 'held the fort' by appearing at stated intervals before the City Council and getting a renewal of the lease.

"Twice the books were turned into the street on account of fire. I remember an amusing picture that comes before me as I write. One Saturday evening at the close of a dismal, dark and chilly day, a dray started down Market street from the house now occupied by Dr. Gibson, loaded with a dry goods box of dilapidated books, a rusty heating stove, known as the cannon type, a stove-pipe elbow dangling from one of the pins, a coal hod, poker, shovel, broom, two old chairs, and table—followed by two tired, discouraged looking women in soiled gowns and aprons. It was the last load to the room we had refitted after the first fire. The situation was so ludicrous, that one said to the other: 'This is like an emigrant's wagon, only the females usually ride.' The other more solemnly answered, 'Will this library ever have a home of its own?'

"I can answer you now; Mrs. Topping. The day has come. And now we are near the time when we were told there would be a real building, a real home for the library; and we all felt that in order to make it presentable for its new home we must have more money. The association will be forever under great obligations to those ladies who fearlessly took this matter in hand. Mrs. A. K. Root, Mrs. H. C. Priest, Mrs. H. S. Mathews, Mrs. J. F. Randall, Mrs. W. B. Pierce. Of all the hard things to do, this does seem to be one of the hardest, to walk up to people and ask them for money, be the object ever so worthy. All honor to these ladies; your names will be in the library history and the people of Alton who so kindly responded to the call. They are worthy of honorable mention. Some day they will be proud that their names are on this 'roll of honor.' The building is finished and with a cheery farewell to the old, I greet the first Board of Directors of the Jennie D. Hayner Library Association at its first meeting in the Memorial Building, knowing you will all join me in saying of Mr. John

E. Hayner:—Long may he live to see and enjoy the good he has done and be able to say, 'I builded better than I knew.'"

LATER REMINISCENCES.

Some of these dear co-laborers have passed to the "Great Beyond," others retired and some are closing their useful lives in this and distant lands.

As my thoughts flow into retrospect there appears before me a small room in the northwest corner of the City Hall, second floor, furnished with a pine table, three book cases, a bench and small stove. In this little room the Library passed into the hands of its new management, the women of Alton, in 1870. Mrs. J. J. Mitchell and Mrs. A. S. Barry, as related in prior pages, had by timely interference saved the books to Alton from an auction sale. The memory of these two ladies is kept green by their portraits in the directors' room. They immediately interested other Alton women to raise funds to liquidate the indebtedness and for future expenses.

My knowledge of the Library does not ante-date 1873. My predecessors in the office of president were Mrs. Edward Hollister, Jr., wife of the Mayor at that time. She retired in 1874 because of removal from Alton. Mrs. R. G. Perley, who served seven years. During the latter part of this time Mrs. A. T. Hawley kindly consented to act as president pro tem, sharing the office with Mrs. H. B. Bowman, Mrs. Perley having found it necessary to spend much of her time in St. Louis, and could not be present at the regular meetings; also it was necessary to have called meetings. She resigned when she left for Europe in 1882. Mrs. A. T. Hawley was urged by all the members to remain permanently in the place she had filled to the satisfaction of all. She positively and unhesitatingly declined. For a time we drifted, no one wishing to take the responsibility. Finally

the time came when an election was necessary, and the present incumbent was elected in 1882, a few months after the resignation of Mrs. Perley.

I will say here, none were ambitious, all were house-keepers and home lovers, and nothing but a desire to put the Library upon a firm foundation prompted the course pursued: Keep out of debt and place a little to the credit side every year, if possible, as Mrs. Martin advised.

Many of the Alton men, notably those who had been directors in earlier days, knowing by experience what a task the ladies had undertaken, and those whose wives were in the new board, were always interested, giving advice and a "God speed," beside pecuniary assistance, especially at times when the library came before the public as institutions usually do. These affairs were well patronized. The records show substantial aid from the public-spirited people. This help served to pay expenses that were constantly increasing. Greater demands from the Book committee every year; a condition not unknown to managers of libraries everywhere.

Mrs. Perley being a woman of marked executive ability, it was not an easy matter to fill her place with satisfaction to her successor.

Mrs. Hollister, in the short time as presiding officer, was in every way equal to the task. Her retirement was much regretted.

As the faithfulness of these directors in the "seventies" and early "eighties" comes before me, none are more prominent than Mrs. H. B. Bowman, who never sounded an uncertain note; unassuming and dignified. She always declined honors which she had well earned; was invaluable as chairman of the Book committee, and after her retirement, in 1880, remaining a great help in book reviewing.

Mrs. A. S. Haskell (mother of Dr. W. A. Haskell) served a short time, retiring in 1874. It was a task she did

not feel like undertaking. Her writings and poems are a sweet remembrance of a brilliant mind.

Mrs. Roger W. Atwood, as treasurer, always knew just the amount we dare spend; her "yes" and "no" was sufficient. Her sturdy New England nature never faltered. She removed to Chicago in 1884 and became very active in church and charitable work. She was treasurer of Pilgrim Congregational Church Society, Englewood, until her death in 1908.

Mrs. F. K. Nichols, who at one time raised a considerable amount for extra expenses by her personal efforts; a pleasant surprise; we felt very grateful. She showed what one woman could do. She severed her connection with the library in 1876, on leaving Alton.

Mrs. W. T. Miller was a member of the Board from 1870 until 1874; retired because of change of residence. It was not an easy task in those days to attend to the book-binding, and still harder to get them bound in Alton at that time, as the writer can testify, as she succeeded her in this work.

Mrs. W. W. Martin, ever cheerful and ever encouraging, meeting all obstacles in the most happy manner. She was President two years, 1885 and 1886. Her record speaks for itself.

Mrs. J. D. Hayner, whether at home or abroad, always anxious to do all she could, Mrs. W. B. Pierce (her sister) carrying out her wishes many times. Mrs. Pierce was quick to see and act through all the changes in the different quarters in the City Hall, and the pleasant life in the Free Library, an active director.

Mrs. N. D. Williams was a director at two different times, a sister of Mr. Thomas Dimmock, a former director, who although a resident of St. Louis for a number of years, gave a most interesting lecture in the new building, "The Little Church in the Tower," as a benefit; also a number

of subscriptions for boys who were unable to pay the subscription fee. Mrs. Williams passed away in 1896. Had long wished for the time she lived to see.

Mrs. Lucy Hart Wright, acknowledged by all who knew her as a woman of great intellectual ability, a ready writer and speaker. As secretary, chairman of the book committee and vice-president, in all these offices that she held at different times, the right woman in the right place.

Mrs. Edward P. Wade answered the call of "the Master" in the autumn of 1908. Her place is vacant. She was ever interested in every good word and work, was a director since 1892.

These have passed to "that bourne from which no traveler returns, and their works do follow them."

Mrs. J. W. Schweppe, a director in six of the most arduous years, retired in 1876, serving faithfully in what seemed to some of us a thankless task. She remained in her home in Alton long enough to see the fruits of her labor. Now a resident of Jacksonville, Ill. She was prior to 1873, contemporary with Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Hollister, Mrs. H. W. Billings, Mrs. J. H. Hibbard, Mrs. L. O. Kendall, Mrs. P. B. Whipple, Mrs. N. Hanson.

Mrs. M. A. H. Crandall left to make her home in California in 1887. An efficient worker on the Book committee; particularly happy and successful in her judgment of juvenile books. The importance of such a position can be readily understood, as it is one of the most responsible in a library.

Mrs. M. F. Topping, the able Recording Secretary, whose records help me to-day to write this sketch, so carefully written are they, resigned at the first meeting in the Memorial building, leaving to reside in Jacksonville, Ill. The closing of her records and review of the past brings a sadness that is hard to overcome, as it meant a parting after a close friendship and association of nearly twenty years. The record says:

"This year begins a new era in the life of the association. A new name takes the place of the old; a new Secretary takes the pen and the pages of the old record book are closed forever." From her home, in Jacksonville, she sends good wishes and congratulations for all progress in the institution she loved so well.

Mrs. H. B. Eaton, a director from 1871 to 1878, retired to make her home in a neighboring town. Her unruffled good nature, notwithstanding the unpleasant things we had to encounter, made the road smooth, that otherwise might have seemed impassable.

Mrs. W. F. Everts, owing to change of residence, was in the board but one year, and her departure was much regretted.

The following names are those still residents: Mrs. A. T. Hawley succeeded Mrs. Atwood as treasurer, an office she filled perfectly until 1901. Her home being too distant, she felt it imperative to resign. Mrs. A. K. Root retired the same year, after many years of self-sacrificing service. Her gifts of sets of fine volumes are much appreciated. Mrs. J. F. Randall, a valuable member of the Book committee, efficient and painstaking always.

Mrs. H. C. Priest resigned on going abroad for an extended time. During her term of service the last printed catalogue was issued. Her work was invaluable from 1877 until 1892. Three catalogues were issued, the last being a "supplement." The ladies spent many days cataloguing, and it was decided that we have assistance when another was needed. When Mr. Hayner determined to endow and make a Free Library, we were much pleased that this difficulty was surmounted in the engagement of Miss Gale, who was familiar with cataloguing in the newest and best method, the card system, known as the "Melville-Dewey," which was adopted.

The fund for which the ladies solicited in 1901 amounted to \$3,387.00; as \$960.00 of this was donated by the ladies who were directors and ex-directors, it was appropriated as a memorial (and is known as the Emeline H. Martin fund,) to be placed at interest and only the income used. The remaining amount, \$2,427.00, was placed at interest and is called the Citizens' fund, to be used in like manner. The individual donations were in sums of \$250.00 to \$1.00.

Those who are gone cannot speak for themselves, and we think it fitting and only justice to put on record those who always remembered to give aid in those early days. We have pleasant recollections of Mr. A. K. Root, with his liberal hand and heart; Mr. R. G. Perley and Mr. H. C. Priest.

When the annual suppers were served in the dining-room in the ten years preceding the Free Library, none were more interested that the proceeds should warrant the trouble than Mr. Hayner. Mr. Wm. Eliot Smith, a former director, never forgot what the work had been to him, by giving material help in the most generous manner. When the Free Library was opened the library suppers were discontinued at Mr. Hayner's request. Alton ladies contributed liberally to the tables, enabling the directors to furnish suppers that pleased the patrons.

Mr. E. M. Bowman gives valuable donations from time to time in memory of his mother.

Mr. J. F. Randall, a frequent visitor, always ready to help in every way.

Mr. H. S. Baker makes yearly contributions of valuable books and his gratuitous services as a lawyer are gratefully remembered.

On the record we find Miss Harriet N. Haskell's name, Principal of Monticello Seminary, as a contributor in 1901; also Miss Emily Alden's and Miss Kate Armstrong's names.

Pleasant recollections, and unexpected, as Monticello has a library of its own.

In closing this long detail of the past, I will add that the Alton papers have been most liberal in giving space in their columns. The Alton *Telegraph* and *Sentinel-Democrat* have always commented disinterestedly and favorably.

The library staff is Miss Florence Dolbee, who has been in the office since 1880, serving faithfully with small remuneration. Now has three assistants: Miss Harriet Dolbee, first; Miss Viola Erbeck and Miss Isabel E. Norton, second and third.

For the selection of books on music the library patrons are largely indebted to Mrs. C. B. Rohland.

Since Mr. Hayner passed away Alton is indebted to his heirs for large improvements, notably the addition to the main building by his grandson, Mr. John A. Haskell, containing reference room, stack and children's room. The children's room is superintended by Mrs. M. C. Hayner, vice-president and chairman of the book committee, a worthy representative of the Hayner Library. The medical library from Dr. Haskell has been recently placed in the reference room, as has also a donation of medical works from Dr. R. Gibson.

And now, dear readers, with a few words by way of a reminder that this is not a Carnegie Library with a ten per cent tax, (and yet all honor to Andrew Carnegie) notwithstanding, but supported by the heirs of one man, who are ever anxious that the best should be accomplished. Mr. Hayner rendered a compliment to the women of Alton when he made a proviso that none but they could be directors, and the present board is doing the best they can to make it of use to the public. Thanks to those who refrain from what we consider unjust criticism. Remember this is not de-

served, and the work is not easy. Much has been given, and much is required, and we need your help and approval.

Must ask pardon for some repetitions in this review. Kindly remember that history does repeat itself sometimes, though not just this way.

LUCIA M. LAIRD.

When the name of the library was to be changed—in process of law—and incorporated as the Jennie D. Hayner Library, the names signed were:

Mrs. M. C. Hayner, (J. E.)	Mrs. Lucia M. Laird, (J. P.)
Mrs. Theo. D. Wead, (J.)	Mrs. Eva L. Stanford, (H.)
Mrs. Elizabeth F. S. Randall, (J. F.)	Mrs. Mary E. Wade, (E. P.)
	Mrs. Lucinda Mathews, (H.S.)
Mrs. Florence E. Haskell, (W. A.)	Mrs. Eunice L. Drury, (A. H.)
	Mrs. Alice E. Smith, (Wm. Eliot.)

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Mrs. W. B. Pierce,	Mrs. H. A. Fletcher,
Mrs. J. W. Schweppe,	Mrs. Geo. H. Smiley,
Mrs. Thomas Biggins,	Mrs. Dr. A. S. Haskell,
Mrs. J. W. Coppinger,	Mrs. G. F. Crowe,
Mrs. Howard Grey,	Drury, Wead & Co.,
Miss Harriet N. Haskell,	} Monticello Seminary,
Miss Emily G. Alden,	
Miss Katherine Armstrong,	

F. W. Drury (St. Louis)	Mrs. F. L. Morrell.
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Mrs. S. Duncan,	Mrs. M. H. Sprague,
Mrs. J. F. Randall,	Mrs. John N. Drummond,
Mrs. C. L. Wright (Lucy H.)	Mrs. O. S. Stowell,
Mrs. H. C. Priest,	Mrs. W. A. Haskell,
Mrs. J. P. Laird,	Mrs. A. K. Root,
Mrs. S. A. Buckmaster,	Dr. and Mrs. C. B. Rohland,
Mrs. Geo. R. Hewitt,	Mrs. Samuel Wade, Sr.,
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John F. Randall,	Chas. and H. R. Phinney,
Henry Watson,	A. H. Wuerker,
Joseph Crowe,	E. F. Deterding.
Geo. M. Ryrie,	

Erratum—On page 4, first word, sixth line from bottom, read
 "had" for "have."

77
81
05
07
11



